Rackham Student Government
Board Meeting: April 5, 2012
Agenda

I. Call To Order

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. March 22, 2012* (p 2)
   b. March 29, 2012* (p 8)

IV. Public Hearing on Resolution W-12-01: Resolution to Expand the
   University’s Non-Discrimination Policy

V. Officer Reports
   a. Graduate Student Body President, Michael
   b. Graduate Student Body Vice President, Kaitlin
   c. Graduate Student Body Treasurer, Alex

VI. Winter 2012 Bylaw Amendments* – Second reading (p 12)

VII. Board Resolution W-12-01: Resolution to Expand the University’s Non-
     Discrimination Policy – second reading (p 49)

VIII. Guest Speaker / Discussion: Prof. Kate Barald, Chair of the Faculty Senate,
      Senate Assembly and SACUA

IX. March Madness Budget Adjustment Request

X. Rackham GPA* (p 46)

XI. Committee Announcements

XII. Open Discussion

XIII. Adjournment

* - Item included in packet
** - Item will be provided on Day of Meeting or at Meeting
*** - Item was included in a previous packet
Board Meeting begins 6:34PM
Absent: Excused: Michael, Marisol, Andrew, Alex Emly, Patrick. Unexcused: Nina

- Motion to approve agenda by Chris, seconded by Pete. Approved unanimously.
- Motion to approve minutes from March 8th Board meeting by Heidi seconded by Haven. Approved unanimously pending the following edit:
  - Haven would like “concerned” changed to “bringing up the issue” on top of page 4.
- Public hearing on resolution W12-01, introduced by Chris Tom
  - Kaitlin opens resolution to discussion.
  - Haven motions to postpone until next week. Seconded by Pete. 9 approve, 1 abstention, 1 opposed

- Funding request
  - Guest from Thai student association.
  - Request submitted late but we are making an exception for considering request since we have already make exceptions.
  - Bam describes event: Annual event. On UM campus >20 years. “Than Night 2012”. Theme= Siam Love Story. Main performance is a skit reflecting different types of loves. Going to serve ~10 dishes of Thai food, drinks, dessert. They will write names in Thai on bookmarks for people, take photos of people dressed in Thai apparel, massages, literature on Thai tourism. Performance to follow of traditional Thai dance- slow with beautiful costume, then Thai modern dance with pop song, Thai kickboxing by professional boxer. Then spicy food eating contest.
    - Funding specifics: huge food budget since Thai food is all you can eat and 200-250 people coming. Ordering and making the food. Budget = $3000. Trying to save on everything else- putting most resources toward the food to make guests happy.
    - Great opportunity for Thai exposure.
    - Exhibitions very thought through and are very unique.
  - Requesting $100 for utensils & serving equip, $300 room rental, $800 for food.
  - Alex T confirms that food is top priority.
  - Ben asks “who else did you apply for funding for, specifically for food”. Bam says CSG, but they have history of not funding food. CSG gave $850, which will cover equipment but cannot be used for food. Dan
asks if applied anywhere else for funding. Center for Southeast Asian Study- application pending.

○ Lauren asks about what other requests are pending. She asks about Thai restaurants. Bam clarifies that the restaurants would give discount for food purchase, not $$ directly.

○ Anna asks when they will start advertising. They are selling tickets already- already sold 50 and most tickets sell in the week prior to the event. Ticket is $15, $12 for buying greater than 1 week in advance. Very young people get in free. Anna clarifies that they need $3k on top of ticket sales.

○ Haven asks where their money comes from usually. Bam says Thai Embassy in D.C. sent them $1k but it is already used up from events from last semester. Rackham, Michigan Student Assembly, CSEAS. She mentions those are all pay up front and reimbursement, which is a disadvantage.

○ Haven asks about advertising strategies targeting non-students as well. Bam says they target students but non-students also come from word of mouth. Haven inquires about proportion of nonstudents 80% students. Kaitlyn inquires about number of grad students. 70% of the 80% are graduate students.

○ Ben asks if there is anything in bylaws that specifically says we cannot fund food. Alex T says no.

○ Alex T asks how many students of Thai student organization that are organizing the event are graduate students. Bam says 60 active although mailing list is larger. <10 Thai undergrads, so ~50 graduate students.

○ Haven asks what all-inclusive cost per person is. Bam says ~$25 for food plus entertainment, supplies and exhibition.

○ Kaitlyn asks if they have been funded by RSG in past. Bam says they got $800 from us last year.

○ Alex T asks where we can buy Tickets. Bam says online. Event usually sells out before event so they usually do not sell tickets at event. Auditorium can hold up to 306 people but they cap it at 250 to allow for everyone to have enough food.

○ Heidi asks if there is any extra food, what do you guys do with it? She says they distribute it amongst themselves.

*Closed discussion begins:

○ Alex T addresses Ben’s inquiry about funding food. Alex says RSG has no problem funding food if it’s the top priority of the event and it is instrumental to the event.
  ▪ Dan references Michael’s previous explanation of food funding relating to cultural events.
  ▪ Haven brings up that ticket cost is equal to food. Haven recommends we fund $5 per graduate student to cover the difference between the inclusive cost per person and ticket.
price for the percentage of graduate students projected to attend the event. $5*140 (70% of 250).

- Kaitlyn seconds the motion. Reaches lots of people.
- Dan brings up the point that they came to us slightly after the deadline and worries that we are granting an exception for this group as well as for the Pakistani group and expresses concern that we are not upholding our rules. Alex T mentions we have not had a lot of funding requests this semester, so it is in our best interest to try to distribute the money to as many funding requests as possible.

- Vote: 9-0-1

Next funding request: Pakistani Association
- Late request but granted exception again
- $2,408 for event this Saturday in Rackham 12-5:30. 5-6 speakers. Former ambassador, Wall Street Journal, Professor. Repeat event from 2010. Anticipate 150 participants, ~75 of which are graduate students.
- $1k speaker travel & $1k speaker lodging. Would go to keynote speaker flying in from NY. Recommendation was to fund $500 for travel and lodging, along with idea that they applied late and did not give a lot of the information Michael would have liked to see. Application was very disorganized. They thought event wasn’t going to happen at one point, then they decided to have it. Application is carbon copy of a request sent to a different organization.
- Lauren asks if they were granted the $1k from the Multicultural Association. Alex T lists off funding they have received from other organizations. It is a few thousand dollars.
- Heidi brings up that the breakdown of $300 for flight and $100 per night for 2 nights may not be enough. Haven says his school spends ~$140 per night. Alex T says if we are consistent with what we fund per graduate student, Alex says this is consistent.
- Haven motions for $500 for travel and lodging. Pete seconds. Dan brings up that this group has not made nearly as much effort to apply and we are funding more per grad student than we did for the Thai group when the Thai group went above and beyond.
- Anna brings up that this has not been advertised to her constituency so she cannot vote on funding something that has not been advertised to her constituency.
- Kaitlyn brings up that we are trying to integrate the newsletter with events that apply for funding and groups that request to hold joint events.
- Dan motions for $375. Kaitlyn seconds. Alex T is weary of formula funding.
- Voting for motion to fund $500 for lodging and travel. We did a waterfall vote, options were %500 or $350. 7 voted for $500. No more votes taken.
• Officer reports:
  o Kaitlyn highlights Michael's highlights. En route to SAGE conference in DC. Jackie Simpson from Spectrum Center is our guest next week.
  o First reading to adopt grad student bill of rights next week.
  o Guests coming up- see Michael's blurb.
  o RSG reps have obligations outside of board meetings- attend committee meetings, actively participate in 2 non-meeting activities each semester. Kaitlyn directs the Board to number of events people have attended this semester. Academic affairs committee is hosting town hall lunch with the deans and attendance at this event is Mandatory. April 3rd at noon. Vote in elections and reach out to grad students to vote. Dan mentions he was present at VDay event at Bar Louie. Ben asks when bowling event is. Katlyn says March 30th.
  o Kaitlyn's officer report: Going to SAGE conference. She is finalizing graduate academic conference. Bylaw amendments will be wrapped up and presented to the Board next week
  o Alex's officer report: Alex is working out SOAS putting HH fundraiser money in wrong account. $500 disbursement that was not ours was charged, which Alex is fixing. Lots of funding requests. 515 votes in divisional elections 418 voted in presidential election.

• Bill of Rights
  o With exception of Right 18, turning into resolution for board. Eli brings up section 6 needs to be cut. Alex motions to table, seconded by Dan. Ben brings up Rights paragraph 1, sexual practice is included. Ben is reticent to vote on this before sexual policy resolution is voted on. Chris said he talked to Michael about resolution taking less time. Bill of rights will take a lot of back and forth time between administration. Vote to table discussion about drafting resolution of the Bill of Rights until next week- approved unanimously.

• Elections
  o Polls close at midnight. Alex will send another email. Ben says Alex is doing a good job. Snaps.

• Resolution on sexual practices
  o Idea was to have a public hearing
  o Motion to table by Alex, seconded by Ben. Approved 9-0-1

• Committee reports
  o Academic Affairs
    ▪ Alex motions to approve minutes, seconded by Eli. Approved unanimously.
    ▪ Next Friday GAC event at MSU.
    ▪ April 3rd town hall/lunch with deans
    ▪ Conflict resolution process flow chart is being created
    ▪ Tien says next meeting is next week
Budgetary Committee
- Alex motions to approve minutes seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.
- IF you ever purchase anything RSG related, get itemized receipts to ensure reimbursement.

Communications Committee
- Less errors
- Newsletter went out at beginning of week

Elections Committee
- Pete asks which division urban planning is part of. Alex will look into verify that its divisional placement is correct.

Academic Affairs

Legislative affairs
- Motioned to approve minutes by Kaitlyn seconded by Alex T approved unanimously.

SAGE meeting this weekend, pushing three issues:
- 1. Increasing research funding
- 2. Reducing graduate student load indebtedness
- 3. Improving immigration policies for international students
- M&T advocating with congress people and will be presenting summary after.
- Haven asks if something specifically they are advocating. Alex says there is a specific list of white papers worked on by schools and their university legislative aids. Board would like to see the white papers.

Student life
- Motion to approve minutes by Anna, Pete seconded approved unanimously.
- Not having march madness event because getting venue would be difficult
- Rock climbing postponed till summer
- Bowling next Saturday
- Chris says date for bowling in minutes is wrong.
- All hands on deck for bowling.

Bylaw review committee
- Suggestions from board for bylaws.
- Compiling amendments while in DC.

CoSAC
- Eli motions to approve minutes, Ben seconded. Approved unanimously.
- Great CoSAC week.
• April 28th secured for Habitat for Humanity. Already have 9 of 12 people registered.
• Next event is DP day. 28 people volunteering- double that expected. Cosponsored by RSG and Ross Community Action group.
  o Open discussion
    • Haven asks when website will be updated. Kaitlin will do it. Alex T brings up that we are thinking about hiring someone to revamp it and include functionality for group registration.
    • Dan wonders what the hold up for revamp. Alex T says it takes time to find someone that fits the bill.
    • Haven asks when election results come out. Winners get notified then campus email gets sent. Alex says he will send winners to board one polls close.
  o Motion to adjourn by Haven seconded by Chris. Approved unanimously.
  o Meeting adjourned at 7:35.
RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT
BOARD MEETING
March 29, 2012
RACKHAM GRADUATE BUILDING
2ND FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM, NORTH ALCOVE
6:30 P.M.

Attendance: Eli Benchell Eisman, Chris Tom, Anna Wagner, Haven Allen, Ben Curtiss-Lusher, Daniel Trubman, Kaitlin Flynn, Alex Toulouse, Michael Benson

Absent (excused): Tien Huei-Hsu, Lauren Knapp, Alex Emly, Andrew Crawford, Patrick Rooney, Nina White, Marisol Ramos, Pete McGrath

1. Call to order: 6:40pm
2. Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Heidi, seconded by Haven. Motion by Dan seconded by Haven to move the guest speaker to section IV. Motion by Chris and seconded by Alex T to postpone the public hearing for the sexual practices resolution. Heidi objects to moving it. Kaitlin clarifies that publicizing this would perhaps increase turnout. Michael clarifies that this item has returned to the agenda because we postponed it only for one week so that is why it’s on the agenda again. Haven asks if we are supposed to have a 2nd reading prior to the public hearing and Michael indicates that we will likely vote on it. 6-1-3 the reading is postponed. Heidi moves to add a discussion of the sexual practices resolution to the end of the meeting and seconded by Ben. Approved with one abstention.

3. Approval of previous minutes: the minutes are provided in raw format and Michael asks that we not approve them at this time. Additionally, the election results are raw and Michael asks that we do not distribute them until the results are confirmed.

4. Jill McDonough, Director of Development and Alumni Relations- Guest speaker. Jill is working hard on the Rackham Centennial events. These events have been very successful this year. These include career roundtables, the research conference, the Jorge Cham event and more—the turnout for all of these events has been very high. Their next event is with Jonathan Cole who will be discussing the future of graduate education. Another upcoming event will involve alumni gatherings in Taipei and Seoul. In October, a number of Rackham Centennial lectures will take place. In November, a donor recognition luncheon will occur. Jill would love to get any ideas or thoughts for a closing event in November, something in line with the fun opening event for students. Michael brings up perhaps hosting a graduate student formal or formal affair for students and faculty (?). Heidi also seconds that and suggests a play, art exhibit or concert. Eli suggests highlighting top researchers who have received Rackham predoctoral fellowship. Michael mentions including and highlighting Master’s students. Kaitlin suggests a concert, perhaps with NoMo or another jazz/funk local band. Jill asks if we have RSG committees working on the semiformal. Jill will follow up with Alex T and Alex E. Jill’s email is jillmcd@umich.edu and she welcomes suggestions. Michael also mentions that UM will be hosting the SAGE fall conference. Heidi suggests putting the event on the Rackham building terraces. Haven asks Jill if there would be alumni pushback on
changing the GPA scale and Jill answers likely no. Michael asks where the alumni money raised from Jill’s office goes and she answers that donor money goes primarily to the students. Heidi asks if the donors can choose which graduate students get their funding. Jill answers no, there is a firewall up to protect from any conflicts of interest. Eli asks if there are pots of money are not used up every year by giving to graduate students. Jill answers that that was once the case, but now due to budget issues, most funds get tapped in one way or another. Chris asks about the stigma associated with nontraditional graduate students and if a fellowship could be created and how one might be able to go about creating such a fellowship. Jill answers that she would be the person to ask, but there may be a fellowship already available for these students. But, if there is still an interest, it would be worth discussing with a director of development like herself would be the next step. Jill also mentions that the increase in student philanthropy on campus has been wonderful for her office. Eli supports this idea and points out that the undergraduate group Project Wolverine is becoming quite successful and adding this on to the graduate level or the professional student level.

5. Officer reports
   a. **Michael Benson, RSG President:** The law school student senate met with Michael and are looking to separate from CSG. A similar meeting is planned for next week with the medical school student council. UM also won the bid to host the SAGE fall summit. The election went well and we are in the process of verifying write-in candidates. Bylaws are included in the packet.
   b. **Kaitlin Flynn, RSG Vice President:** The GAC is taking place this Friday at MSU. About 50 students will be presenting. Also we attended SAGE in DC but will talk more about that later. Finally the bylaws have been updated and we’ll discuss later on the agenda.
   c. **Alex Toulouse, RSG treasurer:** $23,595 in the account but will drop after reimbursements. Budget requests are coming through and we will discuss later. Updated budget is not accurate so an updated version will be provided next week.

6. SAGE updates: Motion to postpone until next week when we will have more board members here by Dan, seconded by Ben. Heidi supports Dan’s mention.

7. Winter 2012 Election Results: Michael describes the problems with the elections and that some divisions have candidates with only one vote and so we are trying to figure out if they want to be representatives. Dan says that there is something from fundamentally wrong with students who only have one vote being able to get a seat when people who have more votes in other divisions. Alex mentions that he would support giving the extra seats to individuals who actually received votes. Kaitlin mentions that while it does seem like students who receive more votes should get seats, it would create a supermajority of students from one program or one division (as is currently the case in Biological chemistry, public policy and chemistry programs). Heidi asks if Dan has a better idea for how it could work. Dan mentions that he doesn’t want a supermajority but still doesn’t support people who have only one vote being able to get a seat. Eli says that he disagrees and says that it is the responsibility of the delegate to contact all constituents. Anna asks if traditionally the president and vice president run together. Michael and Kaitlin answer that yes
this is typically how it goes and is in the bylaws. Anna disagrees with that’s how it should be. Michael explains that the treasurer is appointed by the president and that generally it’s up to the president to choose his executive board. Chris comments that we don’t govern by mandate and that if anyone gets voted in and does a good job we should give them a chance to run. Haven asks what’s preventing board members from ‘just voting for our friends’ and Kaitlin responds ‘isn’t that what you guys did?’ referring to the election of the three Ford School Division III representatives.

8. Graduate Student Bill of Rights: the final version is included without the enforcement piece and we will vote on it next week.

9. Rackham GPA: Haven presents a weighted 4.0 GPA scale as a memorandum including academic peers using each system. Haven makes a motion to adopt this weighted scale as the supported RSG system and Dan seconds. Alex T asks what the purpose of an E is and Heidi clarifies that a course with an E is not allowed to be retaken. He also asks why not to use a 4.3/4.3 scale and Ben clarifies that this is to make it more universally accepted. Kaitlin clarifies that additionally the students in the Fall election voted on having a 4.0 scale. Eli asks if this affects people who have already received degrees and their GPAs and the answer is no. Alex T motions to call to question, Kaitlin seconds. Unanimous vote. Roll call vote for this proposal and by a vote of 9-0-1 it is approved.

10. Winter 2012 Bylaw Amendments: Motion by Eli to add COSAC to the bylaws and seconded by Heidi, it’s unanimous. This will be in first readings until next week. Kaitlin walks through the edits and notes that MSA to CSG switch will need to take place. Kaitlin also mentions that the funding issue with class projects. The language has been changed.

  a. Ben suggests that we move the Projects in which students are receiving course credit for completion. Motion seconded by Eli. Alex and Michael object. Alex notes that moving this to the “may require additional information, section 9” would be ambiguous. Michael notes that he would rather see the language stay in section 10 but add “components of” to the beginning.

  b. Michael moves to amend Ben’s motion to insert “components of” prior to the language. Seconded by Chris. The board discussed Michael’s motion. 4 – 6 fails.

  c. Ben makes a friendly amendment to add f. to read “Symposia or presentations related to class projects in which students are receiving course credit but are not explicitly required under the course.” Approved unanimously.

  d. Kaitlin notes that the divisions are updated.

  e. Alex notes that urban planning has always been in Division 3 but Pete will retain his current seat. Discussion continues.

  f. Kaitlin closes discussion with the caveat that we will fix the changes of MSA to CSG, addition of COSAC and addition of new language to the budgetary committee.

11. Committee Reports

  a. Academic affairs: minutes approval moved by Chris and seconded by Alex T, approved with two abstentions. Town hall event is next Tuesday, please come and get your constituents to come.
b. Budgetary committee: motion to accept the minutes by Alex T and seconded by Chris, approved with 3 abstentions.

c. Communications committee: newsletter coming out Monday, blurbs for full flyer needed by Sunday.

d. Elections committee: still verifying write in candidates and hope to have figured out within a week.

e. Legislative affairs: forums being done for local housing ordinance. The GSRA unionization bill is being taken up by Ingham county court.

f. Student life: bowling event on Saturday, sending out doodle for volunteers.

g. Bylaw review: done.

h. COSAC: DP day this Saturday with 24 people signed up to do downtown gardening. April 28 H4H date confirmed.

12. Sexual Practices Resolution: Heidi makes some points regarding this motion and Michael moves to postpone discussion until the full board can make it. Heidi will email out her points to the board.

13. Open Discussion: Haven makes the point that the sexual practices inclusion in the bill of rights and bylaws means that we should decide on the practice first before pushing. Ben makes the point that the agendas are getting a little long. Kaitlin makes the suggestion that perhaps we could do committee reports biweekly or something else.

Article I: Authority, Rules, and Regulations
Source of Power
Definitions
Rackham Graduate Student Government
Amendments to the Bylaws
Availability of the Bylaws
Conflicts

Article II: Powers and Functions
Rules
Fees
Appropriations
Sponsorship
Lobbying
Representation
Appointments
Elections
Bylaws
Summer Operations

Article III: Infrastructure
Committee Descriptions
Committee Composition and Powers
Committee Responsibilities
Recall of Committee Members

Article IV: Executive Officers
Officers' Powers and Functions
Officers' Terms

Article V: Board Elections
Elections
Board Composition
Terms
Filling of Elected Seats
Election Director
Petitions

Article VI: Duties
Board Procedures
Board Obligations

Article VII: Recall and Appointment Power
Recall
Appointments to Vacated Seats

Article VIII: Funding Guidelines

Article IX: Resolutions
ARTICLE I

A. Source of Power. All power under these bylaws is derived directly from the University of Michigan's All Campus Constitution (amended and revised, March 2009), Article 1 (Student Governments on Campus), Section B (Governments), Section C (Democratically Constituted Governments), and the Compiled Code of the Michigan Student Assembly.

B. Definitions. As referenced in these Bylaws, the following terms shall have meaning as defined in this section.

1. “All-Campus Constitution” or “Constitution” shall refer to the All Campus Constitution as maintained by the Michigan Student Assembly

2. “Rackham Graduate Student Government,” or “Rackham Student Government,” or “RSG,” shall refer to the University of Michigan Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies student government established by the Constitution.

3. “MSACSG” or “Michigan Student AssemblyCentral Student Government” shall refer to the University of Michigan Board of Regents recognized central student government.

4. “Rackham” shall refer to the University of Michigan Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies.

5. “University” shall refer to the University of Michigan.

6. “Campus” shall refer to the Ann Arbor campus of the University, to the exclusion of the Flint and Dearborn campuses.

7. “Student organization” shall refer to student-led groups recognized by the University’s Student Organization Account Services department (hereinafter referred to as “SOAS”).

8. “Bylaws” shall refer to this document.

9. “Graduate Student” or “Student” shall refer to students currently enrolled in Rackham, or are currently enrolled for the following academic semester in Rackham.

10. “Student Body” or “Students” shall refer to the students currently enrolled in the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies within a given academic year.

11. “The Board” shall refer to the legislative branch of the Rackham Student
Government, consisting of all currently elected RSG representatives as well as the Student Body President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

12. “Authorized signer” shall be the president, vice president, or treasurer of RSG.

13. MSA CSG Registered shall be all student organizations that annually register with the Michigan Student Assembly. Registered student organizations can be found on [http://www.umich.edu/~maizpgs](http://www.umich.edu/~maizpgs).

14. “SAGE” shall refer to the Student Advocates for Graduate Education coalition founded in part by the Rackham Student Government.

C. Rackham Graduate Student Government. The Rackham Graduate Student Government shall consist of the Board, the executives, and the Board’s committees: the budgetary committee, the administrative committee, the communications committee, the academic affairs committee, the elections committee, the student life committee, and the legislative affairs committee. RSG shall be the only recognized graduate student government by and within the Rackham Graduate School, the Central Student Government (MSACSG), and the University.

D. Amendments to the Bylaws.

1. Any amendment to the Bylaws must be presented to the Board in hardcopy or delivered electronically to all members of the board at a RSG general meeting 7 days before its first reading. A second reading may take place no sooner than 6 days after the first reading and voted on between 7-45 days thereafter (or until quorum is met). The amendment(s) may not be acted upon for fourteen (14) days.

2. An amendment to the Bylaws shall not be considered by the Board unless both the standing Bylaw and the proposed Bylaw are presented together in hardcopy to all members of the board at a RSG general meeting where a vote on the proposal is scheduled by the President.

3. An amendment to the Bylaws shall not be considered by the Board if the amendment creates a conflict within the Bylaws or a conflict between the bylaws and the Constitution. Such a conflict may be raised as a point of order by any voting member of the Board. Should a conflict be detected following a successful vote by the Board, the President will veto the resolution and thus declare it void.

4. Amendments will be adopted with a two-thirds majority vote of the Board present and voting at the 2nd reading. Amendments are immediate in effect 14 days after a passing vote, unless otherwise noted in the
amendment, with the exception of changes to student fees.

5. Any amendment that shall modify student fees must be approved by Student body-wide, majority vote during either a scheduled fall or winter seat election. Fee adjustments approved by the student body will be presented by the President to the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan for their approval.

Amendments must be recorded in a RSG meeting’s official minutes. Official minutes must be approved on or before the next RSG general meeting or the amendments are void.

E. Availability of the Bylaws. The Bylaws must be posted on the RSG website. Hardcopies Electronic copies must be made available to any member of the student body upon request.

F. Conflicts.

1. Any conflict or ambiguity arising between the Bylaws and the Constitution shall be resolved in favor of the Constitution.

2. Any conflict or ambiguity arising between the Bylaws and any other student government code (including MSACSG) shall be resolved by the Central Student Judiciary on a case by case basis.

ARTICLE II

A. Rules. RSG shall create rules and/or sanctions for the governing of students within the Graduate School. Any such rules adopted by RSG shall be presented to the Dean for her review and approval.

B. Fees. RSG shall levy fees to Students, as approved by majority vote of the Student body, pursuant to Article I, Section C of the Constitution.

C. Appropriations. RSG shall keep, manage, and appropriate monies collected under Article II, Section B of the Bylaws and all other sources of income.

D. Sponsorship. RSG shall appropriate funds to MSACSG registered Student organizations for programs designed to enhance and improve the Graduate Student community on Campus pursuant to the rules contained in these bylaws.

E. Lobbying. RSG shall lobby for the interests of Students within the University and externally to federal, state, and local entities as deemed appropriate by the
Board.

**F. Representation.** RSG shall represent the interests of the student body to all school, university, and external entities.

**G. Appointments.** RSG shall be the sole appointer of Student representatives for all University committees requesting graduate student views and input.

**H. Elections.** RSG shall hold semester elections for candidates. Elections may include referenda.

**I. Bylaws.** RSG shall establish Bylaws in order to exercise their powers and to carry out the functions described herein.

**J. Summer Operations.** RSG shall remain in force throughout the entire calendar year.

**K. Referenda.** RSG shall send to the student body such questions as it deems necessary by a majority vote. Such questions can be informational, such as to gauge the general opinion of the student body on a given issue, or binding such that the outcome of the vote will be binding on RSG policy decisions.

**ARTICLE III**

**A. Committee Descriptions.**

1. **Budgetary Committee (BC)**

   **Composition:** 6–8 members

   **Required Members:** Treasurer (Chair) President Vice President 4+ current Board members, 1 from each division.

   a. The Budgetary Committee shall be required to maintain five active members representatives for the purposes of divesting Student funds democratically. In the event the Budgetary Committee falls below the required five members, the Budgetary Committee duties and powers detailed in III.A.1.b. of these Bylaws are rescinded until membership requirement is met. Until met, all funding requests shall be presented directly to the Board.

   b. The Budgetary Committee is responsible for receiving, reviewing, and authorizing all funding requests from Student organizations by majority
vote up to, but not in excess of, $700 dollars. Requests made for over $700 shall be presented to the Budgetary Committee, after which the Committee shall recommend the amount to fund to the Board for approval. Lack of Board approval will result in further Board discussion followed by a vote. Student Groups requesting funding may request to present their proposal to the Board during a RSG general meeting for approval, with recommendations by the BC.

c. The Budgetary Committee, with the action power described in III.A.1.b of the Bylaws, is required to maintain informal minutes. These informal minutes shall include the individual voting records of all members for all funding requests. Informal minutes shall be taken by the treasurer and kept for three years before disposal. Informal minutes shall be presented to the Board upon request from the President.

d. The Budgetary Committee may hold its fiscal deliberations electronically. In such a case, all committee members will be required to participate in the discussion in a timely manner. Individuals that do not contribute to a discussion without the approval of the Treasurer shall automatically relinquish their vote on the pending matter(s). Repeated lack of participation shall be cause for removal from the Committee by the Board. Unless otherwise specified by the Treasurer, a timely manner shall be considered to be 5 business days.

e. Student organizations granted funding by the Board shall be required to produce itemized receipts and an Event Report to the Treasurer prior to receiving funds.

f. All rules contained in these bylaws as well as in the allocation email from the RSG Treasurer must be adhered to in order to receive reimbursements. Article VIII specifically addresses organization funding requests.

g. Five percent (5%) of the estimated yearly budget shall at all times be kept in reserve for emergency costs. These funds shall not be considered available for funding Student organizations. Use of this reserve shall only be authorized by a majority vote of the Board and the concurrence of both the Treasurer and the President.

h. Disbursements of $700 or less shall require one authorized signature.

i. Disbursements of over $700 shall require the signature of the treasurer with the approval of at least one other authorized signer.
j. Final funding amounts for each accepted Student organization request of $700 or less shall be determined by a majority of the Budgetary Committee. Final funding levels for each accepted student organization request for funding over $700 shall be recommended by the Budgetary Committee and voted upon by the Board. The Board may hear from the organization requesting funding and may modify the Budgetary Committee’s recommendation. A simple majority vote shall be required to approve funding up to $1,500. Funding above this level shall require a super majority as well as the affirmative vote of at least one executive.

k. The treasurer is responsible for producing a detailed Budget for each fall, winter, and spring/summer term, presented to the Board no later than the 4th week of the academic term. Budgets shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board and shall be posted on the RSG website, and hardcopies shall be made available to any interested Student.

l. The treasurer will produce a detailed spending report at the conclusion of each academic term. This report will include all funds budgeted and expended as well as all submitted event evaluation forms. The Board will review the report and approve it if correct by the 3rd week of the following semester. Approved funding reports will be placed on the RSG website and made available to any interested Student.

2. Student Life Committee (SLC)
   Composition: Open Enrollment
   Required Members: 43 current Board members

   a. The Student Life Committee shall address all non-academic needs and concerns of the Student Body to the appropriate university administrator(s). Additionally, the committee shall serve to help unite the Student body through the hosting of large communal events designed to stimulate student social interaction. Specific attention shall be given to creating/hosting events that are inter-departmental, that strive to create a welcoming atmosphere for minority groups and that help to unite both central and northern sub-campus locations.

   b. The Student Life Committee shall present funding requests directly to the Treasurer by the 2nd week of the term. Upon approval by the Treasurer, the request shall be presented to the Board for review and approval. The committee is not exempt from the funding guidelines found in article VIII of these bylaws except when such an exemption is requested and approved by a 2/3rds majority vote of the Board.

   c. The Student Life Committee shall be required to host at least three major Student social events per winter and fall semesters. One major social event during the spring and summer months shall be held, funding permitting.
3. **Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)**

Composition: Open enrollment

Required Members: 3 current Board members

a. The Academic Affairs Committee shall address academic & programmatic needs of the Student body to the Rackham Administration. These issues shall include, but are not limited to, financial aid, fellowships, grants, awards, summer funding, and academic policies.

b. The Academic Affairs Committee shall present Budget requests directly to the Treasurer by the 2nd week of the term. Upon approval by the Treasurer, the request shall be presented to the Board for review and approval.

4. **Elections Committee (EC)**

Composition: Open enrollment

Required Members: Vice President or Treasurer(Chair)* (The Vice President shall chair the committee in the fall term. The Treasurer shall chair the committee in the Winter term.)

4 current Board members (1 from each Division)  
1 Election Director

a. The Elections Committee shall provide active advisement and procedural help to the Election Director, aiding him/her in running a smooth and timely election each fall and winter term.

b. The Elections Committee shall propose any changes to RSG’s election policy no later than 6 weeks prior to a given election.

c. The Elections Committee will assist the executives in the solicition for and the selection of an election director.

d. The Elections Committee shall present Budget requests directly to the Treasurer by the 2nd week of the term. Upon approval by the Treasurer, the request shall be presented to the Board for review and approval.

5. **Community Outreach & Social Action Committee (COSAC)**

Composition: Open enrollment
5. Required members: 2 current Board members
   a. The Community Outreach & Social Action Committee will work collaboratively with the SLC and the AAC as well as non-RSG related service organizations in order to provide a diverse array of volunteer opportunities to the graduate student body, with focus on providing service to the greater Ann Arbor citizenry. While the primary role of RSG is to enhance the academic and social lives of Graduate Students attending the University of Michigan, a special emphasis will also be placed on fostering youth scholarship in the surrounding communities.

5.b. The Community Outreach & Social Action Committee shall present Budget requests directly to the Treasurer by the 2nd week of the term. Upon approval by the Treasurer, the request shall be presented to the Board for review and approval.

5. Communications Committee (ComCom)
   Composition: Open enrollment
   Required members: Vice-President (Chair)
   2 current Board members

   b. The Communications Committee shall facilitate bidirectional communication between RSG and the student body. The committee shall also be responsible for maintaining and managing the RSG website as well as publishing a monthly electronic newsletter.

   c. The Communications Committee shall solicit applications – from within RSG as well as the general student body – to serve on various Rackham and University boards, panels, and committees desiring graduate student representation.

   d. The Communications Committee shall, at the request of the President or Vice-President, assist in the vetting for appointed members.

   The Communications Committee shall be responsible for publicizing RSG meetings and events, producing RSG paraphernalia, and providing constituents with general information about RSG.

7.6. Legislative Affairs Committee (LegCom)
   Composition: Open enrollment
   Required Members: President (must be chair or co-chair)
   Vice President
   43 current Board members

   a. The Legislative Affairs Committee will collaborate with external lobbying advocacy organizations such as the Student Advocates for Graduate
Education (SAGE) coalition, the Michigan Association of Graduate and Professional Students (MAGPS), and the National Association of Graduate and Professional Students (NAGPS) to promote the legislative agenda of the student body.

b. The Legislative Affairs Committee will work with the City of Ann Arbor City Council and Washtenaw County to promote the local interests of the Student Body.

c. The Legislative Affairs Committee will work with the State and Federal Governments, as well as other entities beyond the University to promote the interests of the Student Body.

C-B. Committee Composition and Powers.

a. The Vice President will, with the advice and consent of the President and Treasurer, nominate members of the Board to sit on RSG’s various committees by the 2nd meeting of each semester.

b. Each committee shall have a chair or co-chairs.

c. At least one chair, per committee, must be a current elected representative or executive of RSG. Chairs are voted on in committee with the exception of the BC Budgetary Committee and the Legislative Committee and ComCom and will be presented to the Board for Confirmation by its (the Board’s) 3rd meeting each semester.

d. Committees with open enrollment may include any number of non-RSG members or Associate Members at the discretion of the committee chair, the vice president, the president, or with the approval of the Board.

e. No committee shall act on issues outside of its stipulated responsibilities described herein without prior authorization from the Board.

f. Committees may be created on a temporary basis for special projects. The formation of ad-hoc committees shall be approved by the Board without the requirement of an amendment. Ad-hoc committees do not have any power of action and serve only as advisory panels to the Board. Full committee status requires a 2/3 majority vote by the Board and inclusion into the bylaws, formally stipulating composition and duties.

D-C. Committee Responsibilities.

1. Meetings

   a. Committees shall meet at least twice bi-weekly monthly and at the
b. The chair of each committee shall establish the time and location of each meeting, providing at least 48 hours’ notice to committee members, and provide an electronic copy of the committee’s preliminary agenda to committee members and upon a written request, to members of the student body.

3. Minutes

a. Each committee chair shall ensure that minutes are recorded for each meeting. These minutes will be sent to the committee’s members within 5 days of the meeting for review and approval.
b. Each committee chair will submit approved minutes to the Board within 2 days of approval by the committee.
c. Minutes will be presented in a format provided by the Vice President.
d. Minutes will include meeting attendance as well as an accurate record of the committee’s deliberations, decisions, and future plans.

3.4. Oral Reports

a. Each committee chair shall be required to report any and all committee activities to the Board at each general meeting. Reports must contain attendance records for the committee’s meetings and activities.

Reports may be oral or in writing. The Board’s official minutes may serve as a record of committee reports.
b. The chair of each committee shall be responsible for maintaining a written record of meeting attendance. Minutes of attendance are required and must be emailed to the Vice President within one week the meeting.
c. The chair(s) of each committee may appoint a vice-chair from within the committee’s membership. The selection / election of a vice chair will be reported to the Board. A vice chair shall be responsible for taking minutes and for chairing in the elected chair’s absence as well as for any other tasks so delegated by the chair.

4.5. Budget
a. Each committee must present to the Treasurer a budget no later than 14 days the second week of the term after formation by the Board. Committee chair(s) will take the lead in forming these budgets under the guidance of the Vice President.

D. Recall of Committee Members.

1. Any committee member including the chair may be removed from their position on the committee by a majority vote of the Board in the event of:
   a. The accumulation of 2 unexcused absences in a given academic term. Absences may be excused by the chair when requested in writing.
   b. Failure to report committee activities to the Board for two consecutive meetings (where committee activities have occurred).
   c. A motion by another member or chair of the committee, and a majority vote in favor by the Board.

2. Any committee member including the chair who is up for recall by majority vote shall be given an opportunity to address the Board. Following this speaking opportunity, the Board will vote by secret ballot. The ballots will be counted by the executive officers.

3. The President may, with the consent of either the Vice President or the Treasurer temporarily remove a committee member or chair. Temporary removal shall be voided upon the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE IV

A. Officers: Powers and Functions.

1. President: The president shall:
   a. Be the chief executive officer of RSG, President of the Graduate Student Body, and shall preside at Board meetings with the power to vote.
   b. Be authorized to speak on behalf of the RSG Board, its committees, and the graduate student body at large.
   c. Be an authorized signer on all RSG accounts.
   d. Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees.
   e. Set the time, dates, and frequency for all general Board meetings, set
the general Board meeting agendas, and chair general Board meetings.

- Maintain an updated roster and attendance record for the Board’s elected and appointed members.
- Provide voting members with excused absences as deemed necessary and appropriate, subject to appeal by the Board.
- Vacate a representative’s seat upon the accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences. Bring to the Board a motion to vacate a representative’s seat upon the accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences.
- Provide ultimate oversight and management of RSG’s paid staff members.
- Create, Charge, and oversee Ad-Hoc committees for specifics projects and interests.
- In the event of either the vice president or treasurer being recalled/removed and/or unable to fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws, nominate a successor. The Board will either confirm or reject that nomination. If rejected, the nomination process recommences.
- Represent the Student body as a voting member of the Rackham Executive Board, the governing administrative body of the Graduate School.

**m.** Chair the Legislative Affairs Committee

**n.** Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees

**k-o.** Be the University of Michigan’s official delegate to the Student Advocates for Graduate Education.

**l-p.** Upon leaving office, be responsible for training his/her replacement with respect to their new duties during the two weeks following the election of a new president.

**q.** Present a report either orally or in writing to the Board at each meeting detailing his/her vice presidential activities.

**m-r.** Appoint members of the graduate student body to university committees as appropriate.
2. **Vice President:** The Vice President shall:

a. Be the chief operating officer of RSG, Vice President of the Graduate Student Body, and shall be a member of the Board meetings with the power to vote.

b. Be an authorized signer on all RSG accounts.

c. Take minutes at regular Board meetings.

d. Coordinate the activities of RSG committees, including collecting and publishing committee meeting minutes.

e. Provide management for RSG’s paid staff.

f. Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees.

g. Present a report either orally or in writing to the Board at each meeting detailing his/her vice presidential activities.

h. Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees

i. Be an official delegate to the Student Advocates for Graduate Education

j. If unable to attend a meeting, submit his/her report in writing to the president no later than 48 hours after the meeting. Assume all the powers of the president in the event that the president is unable to fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws and/or is recalled/removed.

k. Act as chair of RSG communications activities including appointment, subject to Board approval, a newsletter editor, serving as editor for all communications emails, and manage RSG’s social media presence including Facebook and Twitter.

l. When chairing the Board meeting, appoint a temporary secretary to take minutes from among the present Board members if the treasurer is unavailable. If the vice president assumes chairing duties, the treasurer shall take the minutes.

m. Upon leaving office, be responsible for training his/her replacement with respect to their new duties during the two weeks following the election of a new vice president.
3. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall:

- Be the chief financial officer of RSG with oversight authority of all RSG accounts and financial transactions.
- Be an authorized signer on all RSG accounts.
- Chair the Budgetary Committee-BC.
- Be an ex-officio voting member of all RSG committees
- Recommend to the Board a salary, consistent with the bylaws, for all RSG paid staff members.
- Prepare a budget with the advice and consent of the President by the 3rd Board meeting of each semester for adoption. Failure by the Board to adopt the treasurer’s proposed budget after the 5th meeting of a given semester shall constitute automatic approval.
- Disburse funds appropriated by the Budgetary CommitteeBC and the Board as provided for in the Bylaws.
- Compile an RSG budget at the beginning of each academic term including committee budgets, representative project budgets, executive discretionary accounts, and other potential expenses.
- Compile an RSG Funding report at the end of each term.
- Manage the approved RSG budget.
- Report at every general Board meeting the current state of the RSG budget and all RSG accounts, including pending credits and debits.
- If unable to attend a meeting, submit his/her report in writing to the president no later than 48 hours after the meeting.
- Have the authority to interpret the spirit and intent of funding articles of these bylaws and to implement the same subject to approval by the President.
- Complete a full funding report at the close of the fall, winter, and spring/summer semesters for which s/he was appointed detailing all expenditures. This report shall be submitted to the Board and published to the Student body.
- Upon leaving office, be responsible for training his/her replacement with respect to their new duties during the two weeks following the election of a new treasurer.
- Present a report either orally or in writing to the Board at each meeting detailing his/her activities.
- The treasurer is responsible for producing a detailed Budget for each fall, winter, and spring/summer term, presented to the Board no later than the 4th week of the academic term. Budgets shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board and shall be posted on the RSG website, and hardcopies shall be made available to any interested Student.
The Treasurer will produce a detailed spending report at the conclusion of each academic term. This report will include all funds budgeted and expended as well as all submitted event evaluation forms. The Board will review the report and approve it if correct by the 3rd week of the following semester. Approved funding reports will be placed on the RSG website and made available to any interested Student.

B. Officers’ Terms.

1. Newly elected officers begin their terms with the commencement of the new semester. The president and vice president shall assume their duties on the first day of classes of the at the start of the spring semester. The treasurer shall assume his/her duties on January 1st, at the start of the winter semester.

ARTICLE V

A. Elections. RSG general elections shall be held on dates determined by MSACSG. The election timetable and rules are found in Article V of MSA’s CSG’s Compiled Code.

B. Board Composition. The Board shall consist of currently enrolled Students as follows:

1. Representation for the Board shall be divided among the four major Divisions defined by Rackham:
   - Biological and Health Sciences
   - Physical Sciences and Engineering
   - Social and Behavioral Sciences
   - Humanities and the Arts

2. There shall be one representative for each 400 Students or major fraction thereof presently enrolled in each of the Divisions. A major fraction thereof shall mean that the remainder is greater than 200 Students after the number of Students in the Division is divided by 400. Each Division must receive at least one representative, regardless of size.
   a. The basis for deciding a Student’s appropriate Division by his/her current area of study for the purposes of election shall be
determined by Rackham. Current Division listings, as of March 1, 2012 are as follows:

**Division I - Biological and Health Sciences**

- Acute Care Nursing
- Bioinformatics
- Biological Chemistry
- Biostatistics
- Cancer Biology
- Cell and Developmental Biology
- Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Cellular Biotechnology
- Chemical Biology
- Clinical Research
- Clinical Research Des and Statistical Analysis
- Community Health Nursing
- Dental Hygiene
- Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
- Endodontics
- Environmental Health Sciences
- Environmental Justice
- Epidemiological Science
- Epidemiology
- Genetic Counseling
- Gerontological Nursing
- Health and Health Care Research
- Human Genetics
- Immunology
- Industrial Ecology
- Industrial Health
- Kinesiology
- Landscape Architecture
- Medical Scientist Training Practice
- Medical Surgical Nursing
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Microbiology and Immunology
- Molecular and Cellular Pathology
- Molecular and Integrative Physiology
- Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Neuroscience
- Nursing
- Nursing Business and Health Systems
- Nutritional Science
- Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- Oral Health Sciences
- Orthodontics
- Parent-Child Nursing
- Pediatric Dentistry
- Periodontics
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Pharmacology
Physiology
Program in Biomedical Sciences
Prosthodontics
Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
Restorative Dentistry
Social and Administrative Sciences
Spatial Analysis
Toxicology

Administration of Nursing & Patient Care Services
Bioinformatics
Biological Chemistry
Biology
Biostatistics
Cell and Developmental Biology
Cellular and Molecular Biology
Chemical Biology
Clinical Research
Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis
Community Health Nursing
Dental Hygiene
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Endodontics
Environmental Health Sciences
Epidemiological Science
Gerontological Nursing
Health and Health Care Research
Human Genetics
Immunology
Industrial Ecology
Industrial Health
Kinesiology
Medical Scientist Training Practice
Medical Surgical Nursing
Medicinal Chemistry
Microbiology and Immunology
Molecular and Cellular Pathology
Molecular and Integrative Physiology
Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology
Natural Resources and Environment
Neuroscience
Nursing
Nursing Business and Health Systems
Nutritional Science
Oral Health Sciences
Orthodontics
Parent-Child Nursing
Pediatric Dentistry
Periodontics
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Pharmacology
Program in Biomedical Sciences (PIBS)
Prosthodontics
Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
Restorative Dentistry
Social and Administrative Sciences (Pharmacy)
Spatial Analysis
Toxicology

Division II - Physical Sciences and Engineering

Aerospace Engineering
Aerospace Science
Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics
Applied Physics
Applied Statistics
Astronomy and Astrophysics
Atmospheric and Space Science
Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences
Biomedical Engineering
Biophysics
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Complex Systems
Computer Science and Engineering
Construction Engineering and Management
Design Science
Earth and Environmental Sciences
Electrical Engineering
Electrical Engineering-Systems
Environmental Engineering
Financial Engineering
Geology
Industrial and Operations Engineering
Macromolecular Science and Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences
Nuclear Science
Physics
Plasma Science and Engineering
Science, Technology and Public Policy
Science, Technology, and Society
Scientific Computing
Space and Planetary Physics
Statistics
Aerospace Engineering
Aerospace Science
Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics
Applied Physics
Applied Statistics
Astronomy & Astrophysics
Atmospheric and Space Science
Biomedical Engineering
Biophysics
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Computer Science and Engineering
Construction Engineering and Management
Design Science
Electrical Eng & Atmospheric, Oceanic & Space Sci
Electrical Engineering
Electrical Engineering – Systems
Environmental Engineering
Financial Engineering
Geology
Industrial and Operations Engineering
Macromolecular Science and Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering
Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering
Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences
Nuclear Science
Oceanography, Marine Geology & Geological Chemistry
Physics
Space and Planetary Physics
Statistics

Division III - Social and Behavioral Sciences

Anthropology
Anthropology and History
Applied Economics
Asian Studies: China
Asian Studies: Japan
Business Administration
Cognitive Science and Cognitive Neuroscience
Communication
Culture and Cognition
Economics
Division IV - Humanities and the Arts

- African American Diasporic Studies
- African Studies
- Afroamerican and African Studies
- American Culture
- Arabic Studies
- Architecture
- Art
- Asian Languages and Cultures
- Classical Art and Archaeology
- Classical Studies
- Classical Studies-Greek
- Classical Studies-Latin
- Comparative Literature
- Creative Writing
- Dance
- English & Women's Studies
- English and Education
- English Language and Literature
- Film Studies
- Germanic Language and Literature
- History of Art
- Judaic Studies
- Linguistics
- Media Arts
- Medieval & Early Modern Studies
- Museum Studies
- Music Composition
- Music Composition and Theory
- Music Conducting
3. A president, who shall be President of the Graduate Student Body of the University of Michigan, along with a vice president, each with full voting rights.

4. A treasurer, who shall act as the principal financial officer for RSG and chair of the Budgetary Committee, with full voting rights.

C. Terms.

1. Two elections shall be held each year, on the same timeline as those of MSA CSG (Michigan Student AssemblyCentral Student Government). One shall be held during November, and the other shall be held during March. Officers and Representatives shall hold their elected seats for one-year terms. One half of the seats apportioned to each division shall be elected in the Fall with the other half being elected in the Winter.

2. The President and Vice President of the Graduate Student Body shall be elected by the student body on a single ticket during the Winter election.

3. The Treasurer shall be nominated by the President and Vice President from and among the current and former RSG membership after the fall election has concluded. The treasurer will assume office for a one-year term upon confirmation by the new Board. A 2/3 majority of the board, including the President and Vice President is required to confirm the treasurer.

4. Each representative’s one-year term shall begin with the following semester. March electees shall assume office beginning the spring semester. November electees shall assume office beginning the winter semester. Upon election, and prior to taking office as an elected representative, all representatives elect shall be considered associate members.

D. Filling of Elected Seats.

1. For any given Division with multiple vacancies during an election cycle, the candidate with the most votes is awarded the first seat. The candidate
with the second highest vote total receives the second seat, and so forth.

2. In the event of a voting tie between two candidates for one seat, the newly constituted Board shall vote at the first general Board meeting of the new term. In the event of a Board voting tie, the votes of representatives of the Divisional candidates in question shall decide. In the event of a Divisional voting tie, the winner will be determined by the president at the first regularly scheduled General Board meeting after the election results were determined.

3. President/vice president: The executive officer positions shall be filled together on a single ticket. They shall be elected by general Student body vote in the winter term. In the event of a tie, the newly constituted Board shall vote to determine the winner at the first general meeting of the spring/summer term. In the event of a Board voting tie, the treasurer shall determine the winner.

E. Election Director (ED).

1. Eligibility: The election director shall be a currently enrolled University student. The director may not be a Board member or any student currently running for office in RSG.

2. Recruitment: The election director shall be recruited through a campus-wide email sent by RSG no later than 49 days prior to the election (as determined by CSG-MSA).

3. Appointment: The Board shall appoint the election director by majority vote no later than 39 days in advance of any general election.

4. Salary: A salary of $300 shall be paid for services rendered. Under extraordinary circumstances, the Board, with the recommendation of the Elections Committee, the Treasurer, and the President may approve a salary bonus for the ED of up to a maximum of $200. All monies will be paid upon successful (as determined by the Board) completion of a given election cycle.

5. Duties:
   a. The ED shall report weekly to the president with updates on candidates and election progress.
   c. The ED shall report the current status of the elections including preparations, advertising, candidate applications, and the like to the Board at least once a week upon his/her confirmation by the Board and until the election is completed, as determined by the President.
   d. The ED shall work with the EC to advertise the election to the
student body including the ability to run for any open Board positions as encouraging maximum voter turnout.

e. The ED shall consult the Office of the Registrar to verify current enrollment numbers to determine the current, appropriate number of seats per Division. No later than one month prior to the election, the ED shall email Graduate to seek candidates for representative seats and advertise the election.

f. No later than 5 p.m. 16 days prior to the start of the election, candidates must, via email to the ED, indicate their intention to run. The ED shall consult the Office of the Registrar to verify current enrollment status and Divisional membership of candidates.

g. The ED shall collect all candidate names and information and submit them online to the voting website no later than 12 days prior to the election, at which point a sample official ballot will be posted for public viewing.

h. The ED shall maintain the voting website and ensure its proper function.

i. The ED shall remain available during the full voting period and answer all questions received from candidates.

j. The ED shall notify the Board and all candidates of election results no later than 24 hours after vote counts have been completed. These results will be posted on the RSG website within 24 hours of notice to the Board being presented.

k. The ED shall receive active advisement and support from the Elections Committee and members of the Board not seeking election.

5. Removal: The board may remove the ED for failure to perform duties, as determined by a majority vote of the Board. Should the ED be removed, any promised salary shall be forfeited. Selection process shall then recommence. Should the ED be removed from office too close in time to an election (as judged by the Board), the President or his designee will fulfill the remaining roles of the ED without financial compensation. The treasurer will reallocate the ED’s forfeited salary accordingly.

F. Petitions.

1. Petitions, amendments, and ballot questions may be submitted to the Student body during a general election for campus vote. The Board must approve all such items by majority vote no later than 16.14 days prior to the
Questions to be placed on a general election ballot may not be approved during a first reading.

ARTICLE VI

A. Board Procedures.

Membership

a. Elected Members

1. Elected Members are all Board members who have been elected by the student body during a regular or special election or elected by the Board to fill a vacancy.

2. Elected Members include the president, vice president, and the treasurer.

3. Only Elected Members may vote on official business during Board meetings.

4. Each Elected Member must be a member of at least one RSG committee as defined in these bylaws.

5. Each Elected Member must plan, execute, or attend at least two non-meeting RSG events each academic term (fall, winter, and spring/summer).

b. Associate Members

1. Associate Members are all non-elected members who show a continued interest in RSG proceedings.

   a. Individuals may become an RSG Associate Member by attending 3 consecutive Board meetings or by attending 3 consecutive committee meetings.

2. An Associate Member may only vote as a member of an RSG committee.

3. Associate Members may participate in Board discussions and debates.

4. Associate Membership shall expire at the next regularly scheduled election as defined in the All Campus Constitution.

5. Associate Members are limited to a single term. Exceptions must be requested in writing and approved by the Board.

e. Appointed Members
1. Appointed members are all non-elected members of RSG that have been jointly nominated by the President and Vice President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Board to serve in a specific leadership role for RSG.

2. With the exception of the RSG Treasurer, appointed Members will not be given a vote on the Board.

3. The President and Vice President may notify members of the Graduate Student Body of any vacancy in an appointed position.

f. Student Body
1. Members of the student body not included in sections a, b, or c above shall be allowed and encouraged to attend RSG Board and committee meetings and to provide information to the Board and its committees when requested. These members will not be allowed to participate in RSG debates or discussions without the permission of an Elected Member.

2. Quorum: Quorum shall consist of half of all non-vacant voting seats, rounded up.

3. Roll call: Each general meeting shall commence with a roll call attendance conducted by the Vice President. This attendance report will be included in the meeting’s minutes.

4. Minutes: Minutes shall be approved electronically or at the next General Board meeting. Minutes shall be posted on the RSG website (by the Vice President) for all Board members at least 72 hours in advance of the next General Board meeting.

5. In accordance with the Constitution, no RSG member shall receive monetary compensation from RSG for services rendered.

6. Board meetings shall be open to the Student body.

B. Board Obligations.

1. Attendance: All RSG members are required to attend general meetings. After the accumulations of three (3) unexcused absences, the member is immediately recalled. Elected Members must also attend a minimum of two RSG sponsored events each semester.

2. Excused absence: Any RSG member may receive an excused absence from the president provided permission is requested at least 48 hours prior
to the general meeting, or within five (5) days subsequent to the absence for reasons deemed appropriate by the president.

ARTICLE VII

A. Recall. For conduct deemed inappropriate by members of the Board, a recall vote may be initiated against another representative and/or officer. A board member shall be considered recalled after a seconded motion and 3/4 majority vote of the Board.

B. Appointments to Vacated Seats.

1. Board members: In the event of a vacancy due to recall, election to an officer position, graduation, resignation, or any other reason, the Board may canvass the Student body via email to invite interested Students to serve as Representatives for the remainder of the term. Any Associate (non-voting, but regularly participating) Member in the same Division as the vacated seat shall be included in the Board’s consideration during the appointment process. Vacancy shall be filled by majority vote. The appointed representative shall only serve out the remainder of the previous representative's term. This appointment power shall be voided within one month of a general election.

2. Executive Officers:

   a. President: If the president cannot fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws or is recalled, the vice president shall assume presidential duties.

   b. Vice President: If the vice president cannot fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws or is recalled, the president shall nominate a successor. The Board will either confirm or reject that nomination. If rejected, the nomination process recommences.

   c. Treasurer: If the treasurer cannot fulfill his/her duties as described in these bylaws or is recalled, the president and vice president shall nominate a successor. The Board will either confirm or reject that nomination. If rejected, the nomination process recommences.

ARTICLE VIII

A. Funding Guidelines.

1. The Board and its BCBudgetary Committee will consider funding
requests from all MSACSG-registered student organizations. Requests for event funding will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Groups requesting greater than $700 in funding are required to make a presentation to the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. Groups requesting less than $700 may be required to make a presentation, at the discretion of the treasurer.

2. A maximum of two requests per organization shall be funded in a given academic year.

3. The Board and its BCBudgetary Committee will not consider retroactive funding requests.

4. The Board and its BCBudgetary Committee will not consider funding requests submitted fewer than fifteen business days prior to an event. This restriction may be waived by the Treasurer on a case-by-case basis.

5. All monies appropriated for a funding request will be for specific items originally listed in a submitted budget. Where budget items are originally approved but have less or no expense actually incurred, excess appropriated funds will be forfeited. Funds cannot be reallocated to budget items not previously approved by the Board.

6. The guidelines contained in the following four clauses will be used by the RSG Budgetary Committee and the Board in making decisions about funding requests. Each request will ultimately be considered on its individual merits.

7. The following are likely to be funded:
   a. Academic events
   b. Cultural events
   c. Proposals that are well written with a detailed budget, including expenses and expected/secured income
   d. Events which are public and held on campus
   e. Community service events involving or benefiting graduate students
   f. Projects that may need start-up funds but which will become self-sustaining in a short period of time
   g. Events that involve more than 100 graduate students and/or have at least 25% graduate student participation
   h. Programs designed to enhance quality of life for the Student body.

8. The following are not likely to be funded:
a. Parties
b. Events not open or easily accessible to the entire UM community
c. Publications which do not positively impact the UM community
d. Events that, in our judgment, should be receiving funds from some other obvious, appropriate source
e. Club sports
f. Proposals from social fraternities or sororities
g. Proposals from lobbyists
h. Capital goods
i. Activities exclusive to the membership of one organization
j. Film and photo development/photographers/videographers
k. Loans
l. Political lobbying

9. The following may require additional information prior to consideration:

a. Food
b. Honoraria
c. Travel
d. Requests from the Central Student Government.
e. Guest Speakers (biographies, prior speaking engagements)

10. The following will not be funded:

a. Alcohol
b. Drugs
c. Medication
d. Charitable contributions
e. Projects in which students are receiving course credit for completionClass projects.
f. Human resources (coaches, secretaries, employees)
g. Late fees/penalties of any type
h. Proposals with non-itemized budgets
i. Plaques/trophies/prizes
j. Scholarships/stipends/awards
k. Events intended for participation by the entire graduate student body if that event is scheduled for a day that is identified as a major holiday on the calendar of University sanctioned holidays.
l. Proposals from individual students (RSG will only accept funding requests from MSACSG-registered organizations)

B. Organization Funding Reports

1. Upon a Board or Budgetary Committee decision to fund a group, the treasurer will send an email to the group’s contact person that designates
the date—30 days after the event takes place—by which a report and receipts are due. A detailed event report, provided by the treasurer in that email, must include the number of students in attendance, the percentage of graduate students attending, a summary of how the event went, as well as a financial breakdown. Receipts for reimbursement must be attached to this report and mailed to the treasurer’s campus address given at request approval. Organizations failing to meet this deadline will forfeit any appropriated funds and will be excluded from requesting/receiving RSG funding until at least the end of the current semester pending any appeal to the Board. This exclusion may be extended by a majority vote of the Budgetary CommitteeBC. Under circumstances beyond an organization's control, the treasurer may extend this deadline provided groups send timely and reasonable requests for such an extension.

2. Per Section A, Clause 3, items in funding reports not approved by the Board will not be reimbursed.

ARTICLE IX

A. Resolution Types.

1. A sense of the Board (SB) shall be an official statement on behalf of the student body as articulated by the Board.

2. A Board Resolution (BR) shall be an official policy declaration of the student body as articulated by the Board. Board resolutions shall be binding on all officers, members, and committees of RSG for matters pertaining to RSG internal business. In the case where the subject of a BR is external to RSG, The President shall transmit the approved BR to the Dean for her review and approval.

B. Format.

1. Every RSG resolution shall contain the following:

   i. A title.

   ii. A unique resolution number assigned by the Vice President in his/her role as the chair of the ComCom.

   iii. A set of descriptive clauses, explaining the rationale for the resolution and providing support for any operative clauses contained within the resolution.

   iv. A minimum of one operative clause directing action in the case of a BR or stating an opinion in the case of a SB.
1. The first operative clause in a BR shall have a format
“Therefore be it resolved by the Rackham Student
Government on behalf of the student body of the Horace H.
Rackham Graduate school that”

2. The first operative clause in a SR shall have a format
“Therefore, on behalf of the student body of the Horace H.
Rackham Graduate school and articulated by its elected
representatives, it is the sense of the Board that”

v. The signature upon final vote by at least one executive officer—
attesting the Vice President or his/her designee—to the vote count
and that the process to consider a resolution as outlined in this
article and in Roberts Rules of Order was followed.

vi. The signature of the President or the Vice President approving or
vetoing the final passage of the resolution. The Officer not chairing
shall have the authority to approve or veto—

C. Voting

1. All voting members of the Board shall be able to vote on RSG
Resolutions.

2. The President, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote
on the final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The president—
may vote when not chairing—

3. The Vice President, when chairing deliberations of a resolution shall only vote
on the final passage thereof to make or break a tie vote. The vice—

4. The Treasurer, will retain his/her full vote on the final passage of a
resolution, regardless of if chairing the Board. when chairing—

derdeliberations of a resolution shall only vote on final passage thereof to
make or break a tie vote. The Treasurer may vote when not chairing—

D. Student Body Input

1. Upon a motion, second, and majority vote by the Board any resolution
may be postponed to a time certain to allow for formal input from the
student body.

2. Unless waved by a 2/3rds majority of the Board, a vote to adopt a BR will
be out of order unless a public hearing on the BR has been advertised
and conducted.
E. Public Hearings

1. Board resolutions serve as official statements of policy and as such require input from the student body.

2. Prior to the second reading of a BR, notice shall be posted to the RSG website as well as to the student body via each department / program’s graduate coordinators, and via an email to the graduate student body that a resolution shall be coming to a vote. The notice shall include the title of the resolution, a short description of the resolution including objective pros and cons, and the date / location of the meeting where the Board will consider the resolution.

F. Executive Veto

1. Resolutions not approved by the President or Vice President within 1 week of passage by the Board shall be in full force and approved. Resolutions vetoed by the President or Vice President shall be presented to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The resolution shall be accompanied by a memo indicating the rationale for the veto. Upon a motion, second, and 2/3rds majority vote of the Board, the veto shall be overridden and the resolution shall be in full force.

G. Publication

1. Upon the final adoption and approval of a resolution, a signed version of shall be posted to the RSG website and included in the Board’s minutes.

2. Copies of the approved resolution should also be transmitted to the Michigan Daily, the Michigan Voice, MSA/CSG, and members of the Student Body (upon request).
MEMORANDUM
TO: Michael Benson, President
FROM: Haven K. Allen, Division III Representative
SUBJECT: Proposed Change to Rackham Grading Scale
DATE: March 28, 2012

Current System

Rackham Graduate School at the University of Michigan currently has a 9.0 grading scale that has been in place since the school’s inception. The purpose and the history of this system are beyond the institutional memory of the university. This system assigns letter grades based off of the following numerical values:

- A+ = 9
- A  = 8
- A- = 7
- B+ = 6
- B  = 5
- B- = 4
- C+ = 3
- C  = 2
- C- = 1
- D  = 0
- E  = 0

To compute a cumulative grade point average, the sums of all earned grades are divided by the total number of hours a student has completed. To maintain satisfactory academic standing, graduate students must make satisfactory progress towards their degrees and have a minimum Rackham cumulative grade point average (GPA) of B (5.00 on a 9.00 scale).  

Proposed System

In response to concerns raised by the graduate student body, the Rackham Student Government is proposing the following amended grading system to that of a weighted 4.0 scale. The purpose of this system is to maintain parity and remain competitive with our academic peers, while providing a representative system that reflects a student’s coursework while affording potential employers with an opportunity to evaluate the student’s success under current conventional standards.

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/policies/academic_policies/section4/>
The proposed system will assign letter grades based off of the following numerical values:

- **A+** = 4.3
- **A** = 4.0
- **A-** = 3.7
- **B+** = 3.4
- **B** = 3.0
- **B-** = 2.7
- **C+** = 2.4
- **C** = 2.0
- **C-** = 1.7
- **D** = 0.0
- **E** = 0.0

To compute a cumulative grade point average, the sums of all earned grades (course hours x achieved grade) are divided by the total number of hours a student has completed. To maintain satisfactory academic standing, graduate students must make satisfactory progress towards their degrees and have a minimum Rackham cumulative grade point average (GPA) of B (3.00 on a 4.00 scale).

**No student may achieve a cumulative GPA above a 4.0**

**Academic Peers Using this System**

The proposed grading system is similar to those currently in use by the following graduate school institutions:

- Cornell University
- Vanderbilt University
- Stanford University
- University of North Carolina
- Emory University
- University of Connecticut
- University of Oregon
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Iowa
- University of Georgia
Calculation Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Course Hours</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>6.075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.25</strong></td>
<td><strong>45.275</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

G.P.A.      3.42

Final Justification

The Rackham Student Government is acting on the will of the graduate student body. In order to serve their needs and desires, we believe the proposed grading scale system is prudent and necessary in a highly competitive employment environment.
RESOLUTION TO EXPAND THE UNIVERSITY NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

WHEREAS, The Non-Discrimination Policy within the University of Michigan Standard Practice Guide exists to protect the diverse range of individuals employed by and attending the University from discrimination, harassment, and violence; AND

WHEREAS, the Non-Discrimination Policy states that the University “will not discriminate against any individual because of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status”; AND

WHEREAS, “gender identity” is interpreted to refer to the self-identity of the individual; “gender expression” is interpreted to the actions of an individual to realize their gender identity; AND

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association defines sexual orientation to be “an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions to men, women, or both sexes;” AND

WHEREAS, sexual orientation refers to the nature of the person or persons that an individual is emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions; AND

WHEREAS, University protects the subject and the object of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions through its Non-Discrimination Policy; AND

WHEREAS, the Non-Discrimination Policy does not protect the actions between the subject and object that are the primary means to sexual and physical fulfillment; AND

WHEREAS, “sexual expression” would thus refer to the actions of an individual to realize their sexual identity; AND

1 Michigan Standard Practice Guide (sect. 201.35)
2 Jackie Simpson, Head of the Spectrum Center, adapted from personal communication on Feb 13th, 2012.
3 Dr. Charlie Glickman, Adult Sex Educator in San Francisco, adapted from personal communication March 31st, 2012.
WHEREAS, “marital status” is defined as “never married, married, widowed and not remarried, divorced and not remarried, married but legally separated, de facto union”; AND

WHEREAS, “marital status” does not protect a diverse range of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual relationships that can occur outside of, and coexistent with, the institution of marriage; AND

WHEREAS, it is known that individuals can and have been discriminated against for their methods of sexual expression and non-marital relationship status; AND

WHEREAS, without explicit protection from discrimination, there may be the threat of implicitly sanctioned discrimination; violence and related hate crimes can accompany the lack of explicit protection.

NOW ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT BODY OF THE HORACE H. RACKHAM GRADUATE SCHOOL, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the section 201.35 of the Standard Practice Guide of the University of Michigan be amended as follows (without emphasis):

“The University, in its employment and human resource policy and practices, will not discriminate against any individual because of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, relationship status, sex, sexual orientation, sexual expression, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status, except as allowed by the need for bona fide occupational qualification. Reasonable accommodation will also be provided to persons with disabilities, to disabled veterans, and to accommodate religious practices;”

AND BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, that the President of the graduate student body is empowered and directed to work with the Administration of the University of Michigan to put into place policies that reflect the will and intent of this resolution.

AUTHOR


6 National Coalition for Sexual Freedom, Incident Response Report records

7 Rebecca Stotzer, PhD. Comparison of hate crime rates across protected and unprotected groups. Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. June 2007.
Christopher Tuck Mung Baker Tom
Representative (Division 1), Rackham Student Government
Co-chair, Academic Affairs Committee

ATTEST

By Signing below, I certify the this resolution was dispatched by the RSG Board under the rules as prescribed in section IX of the bylaws and that the vote count appearing at the top of this resolution is accurate.

____________________________________
Kaitlin Flynn
Vice President, Rackham Student Government

PRESIDENTIAL ACTION

I, Michael Benson, President of the Rackham Student Body, do hereby approve / veto this resolution on this the ______ day of _____, 2012.

____________________________________
Michael L. Benson
President, Rackham Graduate Student Body